

## CLAIMS

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A method for providing variable frequency logging of activities in a distributed computing system comprising the steps of:

detecting an event trigger;

responsive to the event trigger, activating a temporary logging function for logging system activities;

logging system activities; and

terminating logging of system activities based on detection of a stop event.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein said activating further comprises implementing filtering of said logging of system activities.

3. The method of Claim 1 wherein said event trigger comprises an error message.

4. The method of Claim 1 wherein said activating comprises altering the amount of logging done for system activities.

5. The method of Claim 4 wherein said altering comprises adjusting the frequency at which logging is done on an affected subsystem at an affected location.

6. The method of Claim 1 wherein said activating comprises  
5 starting logging at an affected subsystem.

7. The method of Claim 6 wherein said activating comprises identifying the subsystem affected by said event and starting logging at said affected subsystem.

8. The method of Claim 7 further comprising determining  
10 the identity of at least one additional subsystem affected by the event and starting logging at said at least one additional subsystem.

9. The method of Claim 1 further comprising determining  
15 what subsystems have been affected by said event and wherein said activating comprises starting logging at all affected subsystems.

10. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of accessing at least one configuration database for predefined temporary logging information.

11. The method of Claim 7 further comprising the step of accessing at least one configuration database to obtain predefined temporary logging information for said subsystem.

12. Apparatus for providing variable frequency logging of activities in a distributed computing system comprising:

an event trigger detection component for detecting at least one predefined trigger event;

a plurality of logging components for logging system activities at a system location;

a logging activator responsive to input from the event trigger detection component, for activating at least one of said plurality of logging components to log system activities; and

a stop event detection component for terminating logging of system activities based on detection of a stop event.

13. The apparatus of Claim 12 wherein said event trigger detection component comprises a component for monitoring error messages in said system.

14. The apparatus of Claim 12 wherein said stop event detection component comprises a timer for terminating logging after a preset time period.

15. The apparatus of Claim 12 wherein said stop event detection component comprises a component for receiving user input of stop notification.

16. The apparatus of Claim 12 further comprising a mapping component for determining the location from which the trigger event emanated.

17. The apparatus of Claim 16 wherein said mapping component is further adapted to determine the subsystem at which the trigger event occurred.

18. The apparatus of Claim 17 wherein said mapping component is additionally adapted to identify at least one additional subsystem affected by said trigger event.

19. The apparatus of Claim 17 wherein said logging activator activates logging at each of said at least one additional subsystem.

20. The apparatus of Claim 12 wherein said logging activator comprises means to alter the frequency at which the logging of system activities is done.

21. A program storage device readable by machine tangibly  
embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to  
perform a method for providing variable frequency logging of  
activities in a distributed computing system, said method  
5 comprising the steps of:

detecting an event trigger;

responsive to the event trigger, activating a temporary  
logging function for logging system activities;

logging system activities; and

10 terminating logging of system activities based on detection  
of a stop event.

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T09290-435T6860